

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Species B (Figs. 5 and 6) claims 9, 19 and 20, in the reply filed on 9/6/2007 is acknowledged.
2. Claim 11 withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected embodiment, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 9/6/2007.

Drawings

3. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the an embodiment that comprises **only one conductive pin, only one through hole and only one non-through hole** must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered. The applicants are reminded that they have previously elected the embodiment of Figs. 5 and 6 that comprises two conductive pins, each passing through the reinforcement member of the holder via a through hole, the holder also comprising more than one non- through hole (see also the related Figs. 3 & 4).

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the

filings date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

5. Claims 9, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for an embodiment in which the rupture pressure of the through hole, through which the conductive pin passes, **is configured to be higher than the rupture pressure of the non-through hole** through which the conductive pin does not pass, does not reasonably provide enablement for a gas generator that does not encompass this rupture pressure differential between the through holes and the non-through holes. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims. The specification does not disclose an embodiment commensurate in scope with claims 9, 19 and 20, specifically one that does not encompass the critical rupture pressure differential between the pin containing through holes and the non-through holes.

6. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

7. Claims 9, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 9, lines 11-14, the limitations, “*a rupture pressure of said through hole through which said conductive pin passes is configured to be higher than a pressure which causes the at least one conductive pins to separate from the holder*”, is not understood. The rupture pressure of the through hole is the pressure that causes the pin to separate from the holder and cannot by definition be higher than the pressure that causes the pin to separate from the holder.

8. Claims 9, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the necessary structural connections. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted structural cooperative relationships are: the rupture pressure of the through hole, through which the conductive pin passes, **is configured to be higher than the rupture pressure of the non-through hole** through which the conductive pin does not pass. In the instant invention, it is this differential of the rupture pressures between the through hole and the non-through hole that ensures that the non-through hole ruptures first, thereby releasing the pressure from the gas generant side of the holder towards an outside of the gas generator, thereby ensuring that and the pin(s) do not separate from the holder, an potentially cause injury or damage.

Without this rupture pressure differential between the through holes and the non-through holes being positively recited in claim 9, it remains unclear how the generator of claim 9 could function as disclosed.

In claim 9, it is unclear how a holder with only one through hole through the reinforcement member, only one pin positioned in the through hole and only one pressure relieving non-through hole is consistent with the elected embodiment of Figs. 5 and 6 (see also the related Figs. 3 & 4).

9. Claims 9, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the necessary structural connections. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted structural cooperative relationships are: the through holes passing through the holder and not just the reinforcement member of the holder.

10. Claims 9, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the necessary structural connections. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted structural cooperative relationships are: the non-through holes being located in the holder and not just in the reinforcement member.

In claim 20, it is unclear what hole the “*connector attachment hole*” refers to in Figs. 5 and 6?

Conclusion

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James S. Bergin whose telephone number is 571-272-6872. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Wednesday and Friday, 8.30 - 5.30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Carone can be reached on 571-272-6873. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/James S. Bergin/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3641